

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

4 NOV. 1961  
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Berlin

a) East Germans have recently removed the permanent barriers at the Brandenburg Gate, in the British sector. They may be preparing to require that Allied officials use this entry, rather than Friedrichstrasse in the American sector, in the hope that the British would prevent further US armed probes.

b) East German Kampfgruppen (factory militia used to bolster internal security), and possibly reservists, are apparently on some form of preparatory alert. 50X1

c) Our review of information on West Berliners shows a net exodus of about 500 a week. Permanent departures of mostly older business and professional people are about 1500 a week and are only partly offset by an influx of young workers attracted by high pay and fringe benefits.

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### 3. Laos

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- a) Meo firing on Xieng Khouang appears to have ceased. Meanwhile, enemy troops are mounting an assault against nearby Meo base camp.
- b) On recent nights, light enemy harassing fire has been placed on a Mekong ferry point near Vientiane over which cross most imports from Thailand.
- c) The Boun Oum government is still avoiding a meeting with Souvanna at his headquarters. Souvanna, pleading poor health, has now asked the King to receive his "report"--possibly his cabinet selection--via an aide.

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4. [redacted] Soviet  
forces in East Germany  
reinforced

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[redacted] the USSR may have reinforced its  
forces in Central Europe by as much  
as four divisions. We are not yet  
convinced that there is sufficient  
evidence to support such an estimate.

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NOTES

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- B. Our embassy in London believes the measures proposed in the Queen's speech to reinforce the army (limited retentions and recalls of draftees) are stopgaps designed more to prevent further army deterioration than to increase its fighting potential.

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- D. Moscow agencies involved in economic and military relations with underdeveloped countries appear to be preparing administratively for at least a continuation of economic and military aid to Syria.

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